

Statement by the SRSG and Head of BINUH, Ruiz Massieu, before the UN Security Council – New York, 19 October 2026

Madam President,

Distinguished Members of the Council,

It is a pleasure to join Jack Christophedes, the Special Representative of the Gang Suppression Force, and Daniela Krosiak, Head of the UN Support Office in Haiti, for this session.

We have learned with deep concern of the attack on Salvadoran members of the GSF and sincerely hope for a safe and positive resolution. Our thoughts are with our GSF colleagues, whose dedication and commitment to their mission we deeply appreciate.

Madam President,

Distinguished members of the Council,

Since my last periodic briefing in July, efforts to advance the political transition in Haiti have continued with determination. Despite a challenging security environment, electoral preparations have reached a level of progress unseen in over a decade. In this regard, the registration of more than 35 political parties and groupings, as well as over 3,500 candidates vying for elected office, demonstrates a broad commitment to moving the electoral process forward.

Building on this progress, efforts to adapt the electoral framework to the realities on the ground have continued, notably through the publication of a revised electoral decree on October 6. The measures adopted include extending the candidate registration period, provisions to facilitate the candidacy of women, and the introduction of online voter registration. These steps are significant milestones toward fostering a more participatory and inclusive process, particularly given that the number of registered voters remains well below the estimated size of the electorate.

Madam President,

The changes made to candidate eligibility criteria—specifically concerning how to address individuals subject to bilateral and regional sanctions—have sparked debate both domestically and internationally. Regardless of the final decision reached by the Haitian authorities on this matter, these discussions have highlighted the urgent need for robust national mechanisms to address allegations of criminal activity and corruption. Strengthening the rule of law and the judicial system will be essential to restoring public trust in state institutions and tackling the root causes behind the erosion of the democratic order. As electoral authorities undertake a revision of the

electoral calendar, it is essential that any adjustments be based on a realistic assessment of the logistical and security conditions prevailing in the country.

Let us be clear: repeatedly announcing election dates without a realistic assessment of their feasibility can only erode public trust and the credibility of Haitian institutions. In this regard, close coordination between the government and the Provisional Electoral Council—while respecting their respective mandates—will be indispensable.

On an encouraging note, on October 5, the Council of Ministers adopted a resolution introducing measures designed to ensure equal opportunity for all political actors and the impartiality of public authorities throughout the electoral process. This includes provisions for sanctions in the event that state resources are used for electoral purposes. The effective implementation of these measures will be crucial for strengthening public confidence and safeguarding the integrity of the electoral process.

A strong national commitment, bolstered by sustained regional and international support, will be essential to maintain the momentum of electoral preparations. The BINUH will continue to contribute to this effort by expanding its engagement with political parties, civil society, and other stakeholders to promote an intra-Haitian dialogue; by providing and coordinating international electoral assistance; and by strengthening its outreach activities aimed at first-time voters, particularly young people and women.

Madam President,

As I brief you today, armed gangs continue to challenge State authority and inflict violence on the Haitian population. While security forces, with growing support from the Gang Suppression Force, have intensified their operations, widespread insecurity persists, undermining stability, hampering efforts to restore State authority and disrupting the daily lives of the Haitian people.

Between July and September of this year, BINUH documented over one thousand people killed, and over a hundred victims of kidnapping. Sexual violence remains rampant, while self-defence groups continue to expand.

The indiscriminate killings in Kenscoff, which prompted an emergency meeting of this Council on 28 August, served as a stark reminder of the brutality of gang violence. Subsequent attacks in other parts of the country, including rural areas, have further underscored the geographic spread of insecurity.

Of particular concern is the ability of gangs to adapt their tactics as security operations intensify. On the ground, we are witnessing increasing reliance on retaliatory violence against communities, including hostage-taking and other forms of intimidation, as gangs seek to undermine State authority, preserve territorial control and spread fear.

I strongly condemn these acts and urge Haitian authorities to take all necessary measures to protect local populations, including by strengthening the capacity of national security institutions to respond effectively to evolving threats.

Against this challenging backdrop, some positive developments nevertheless warrant attention. With the support of the United Nations Support Office in Haiti, the GSF has expanded its footprint in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area and the Artibonite Department, reinforced by the deployment of additional contingents.

My presence today, alongside the Head of UNSOH and the Special Representative of the GSF, demonstrates our shared commitment to a coordinated and mutually reinforcing response, in line with the decisions made by this Security Council, whose unwavering support for Haiti I wish to acknowledge.

I also welcome the decision of the Government of Haiti to substantially increase funding to national security institutions and strengthen the capacities of the Haitian National Police and the Armed Forces of Haiti. These efforts, with the support of international partners, are essential to enabling Haitian institutions to assume greater responsibility for restoring stability and extending State authority.

While these developments are significant, the full deployment of the Gang Suppression Force remains paramount and sustained support from this Council will be indispensable to ensuring that it reaches its full operational capacity without delay.

Distinguished Members of the Council,

Experience has shown that security operations alone cannot deliver lasting stabilization. Sustainable progress requires a comprehensive Haitian-led approach that combines territorial recovery with a sustained State presence, and coordinated efforts in disarmament, dismantlement and reintegration, with particular attention to children recruited by gangs.

I remain firmly committed to supporting these efforts, notably by accompanying the National Commission for Disarmament, Dismantlement and Reintegration in its nationwide consultations, and, more importantly, in the development of a comprehensive, nationally led DDR programme.

Madam President,

The humanitarian and socio-economic situation in Haiti remains deeply alarming. Vulnerable populations continue to bear the brunt of gang violence. Over the past three months, renewed insecurity has displaced more than 17,000 people, bringing the total number of internally displaced persons to nearly one and a half million, including over 740,000 children.

As Haiti's economy is projected to contract for a seventh consecutive year in 2026, the humanitarian needs continue to outpace available resources, with less than half of the Humanitarian Response Plan for this year funded to date. Without increased international support, the gap between growing needs and available assistance is likely to widen further.

Madam President,

The months ahead offer an opportunity to achieve tangible progress and pave the way for the restoration of democratically elected institutions.

To seize this opportunity, sustained and mutually reinforcing progress in the security, political and electoral spheres, as well as the effective implementation of Security Council sanctions, will be essential. In line with resolution 2814, adopted by this Council, BINUH will continue to work closely with the Haitian authorities to support the implementation of the United Nations sanctions regime.

The Haitian people continue to demonstrate remarkable resilience in the face of extraordinary hardship. They now deserve to see tangible improvements in their daily lives.

I therefore call on Member States to sustain their support for Haiti and their solidarity with the country. This includes contributing to the Trust Fund for the Gang Suppression Force and the Haiti Peace Dividend Fund, advancing a complementary approach that combines security interventions with efforts in justice, disarmament, dismantlement and reintegration.

Strong national ownership, supported by sustained international engagement, including from this Council, will be critical to advancing security objectives, bringing the transition to a successful conclusion, and laying the foundations for lasting peace and stability in Haiti.

Madam President,
Distinguished Members of the Council,

Despite our repeated efforts alongside the Haitian people, we have yet to fully achieve our shared objectives. Today, we have another opportunity through an innovative, collective approach that brings together the strength of the GSF, the effective support of UNSOH, and BINUH's political leadership, in support of national priorities.

Let us seize this opportunity and work hand in hand with Haiti to turn our shared commitments into tangible and sustainable progress for the Haitian people.

I thank you.